

Remarks:

Applicant would like to express appreciation for the courtesies extended by the Examiner in the telephonic interview conducted on December 7, 2010 between the Examiner and the undersigned. During the interview, the Examiner indicated that the amendments to claim 25 submitted herewith would be entered.

Claims 17-31 are pending. Claims 17-24 have been allowed. Applicant would like to express appreciation for the Examiner's indication of allowance of these claims.

Claims 25 and 28-31 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,204,669 ("Dorfe") in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0090925 ("Schoeberl"). Additionally, claim 26 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorfe in view of Schoeberl and further in view of U.S. Publication No. 2004/0012249 ("Koelzir"). Finally, claim 27 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Dorfe in view of Schoeberl and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 7,062,718 ("Kodosky"). Of these claims, only claim 25 is independent. Accordingly, as Applicant believes claim 25 as amended is in condition for allowance, Applicant will only address the rejection of claim 25.

Applicant has amended claim 25 to indicate that the contact of a module to the central unit is interrupted "to register the module identification information." The Examiner agreed, during the above-mentioned interview, that this amendment to claim 25 would overcome the rejections based on the cited art. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully asserts that all of claims 25-31 should be allowed.

Applicant has submitted herewith a Request for Extension of Time and the associated fee. Applicant believes that no additional fees are due in connection with this submission, however, if any fees are necessary, please charge Deposit Account No. 02-0390, Baker & Daniels.

If there are any questions regarding any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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